

REMARKS

Indication that claims 1-7, 15 and 17-18 are allowed is appreciated. In this Response, the specification and claims 8-14 and 16 are amended. No new matter is added by the amendments. The specification is amended at the Examiner's suggestion to clarify that "storage media" includes "computer hard disk drives, CD-ROM drives and removable media such as CDs, DVDs, Universal Serial Bus (USB) drives, floppy disks, diskettes and tapes". Since the original specification stated "tangibly embodying a program of instructions upon a storage media", which encompasses well-known media such as computer hard disk drives and CD-ROM drives, no new matter is added.

Accordingly, claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and remarks made herein.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 8-14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, for the reasons set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states: "Claims 8-14 and 16 are directed to a 'program storage device for storing a program of instructions'. The program storage device is merely a program per se." It is not clear what is meant by the Examiner's statement because a *program storage device* is a storage media, such as for example, computer hard disk drives, CD-ROM drives, CDs and diskettes, and is not a *program*.

In this Response, claims 8-14 and 16 are amended to incorporate "computer readable medium". As discussed in MPEP § 2106.01, a computer program (or method steps performed by a computer program) is statutory subject matter if it is claimed as being recorded on a "computer readable medium". Therefore, for the above reasons, amended claims 8-14 and 16 are statutory.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, which the Office Action indicates is allowed. It is believed that

inasmuch as claims 7-14 and 16 are dependent on claim 8, and claim 8 is patentable and should be allowable, claims 7-14 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9, 14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action.

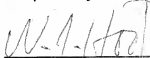
In this Response, claim 14 is amended to clarify that "receiving a query" stands for "receiving a query that involves an encrypted column". As discussed above in connection with the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101, it is believed that claims 9, 14 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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